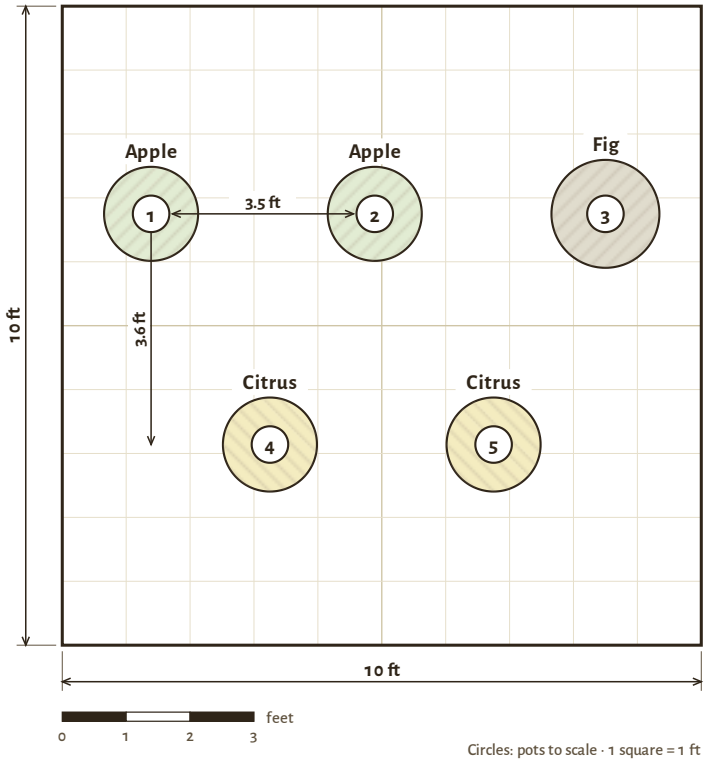
Patio Orchard Plan in Five Pots

10 × 10 feet · 5 trees in pots · pots sized from university extension minimums



Circles: pots to scale · 1 square = 1 ft
Turn the plan to suit your yard

#	Tree	Role in the plan	Room given	Mature size in sources	Your variety
1	Very dwarf apple	Apple on M.27	20-gal pot, 18 in	In the ground: 5–7 ft tall, 4–6 ft across	
2	Very dwarf apple	Apple on M.27, partner for tree 1	20-gal pot, 18 in	In the ground: 5–7 ft tall, 4–6 ft across	
3	Fig	Fig	30-gal pot, 21 in	In the ground: 10–30 ft tall, 15–30 ft across	
4	Dwarf citrus	Citrus	20-gal pot, 18 in	In the ground: 6–10 ft tall	
5	Dwarf citrus	Second citrus	20-gal pot, 18 in	In the ground: 6–10 ft tall	

Pollination: keep apple partners within 20 ft of each other. Turn the plan to suit your yard. Colorado State warns that apples close to the south or west side of a building may bloom too early and be hurt by frost. Apples: a 20-gallon pot, the largest of the smallest sizes the sources give (NC State 20 to 25; Washington State University 15 gallons). Figs: a 30-gallon pot, the largest of the smallest sizes the sources give (University of Tennessee 30 to 50; University of Maryland 15; Rutgers 15; NC State 10 gallons). Citrus: a 20-gallon pot, the largest of the smallest sizes the sources give (LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard School 20; UCCE Master Gardeners Santa Clara County 15; UC Cooperative Extension Sacramento County 15 gallons). Every pot needs drainage holes; Washington State sets pots on bricks or blocks rather than in a saucer. Very dwarf apple: the sources name M.27 for this class. Dwarf citrus: the sources name Flying Dragon and Cuban Shaddock for this class.

Sources: Oregon State University Extension Service; Clemson Cooperative Extension; LSU AgCenter and 21 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Patio Orchard Plan in Five Pots

Pots behind the drawing

Tree	Pot	Pot size set by
Very dwarf apple	20-gal pot, 18 in	NC State
Fig	30-gal pot, 21 in	University of Tennessee
Dwarf citrus	20-gal pot, 18 in	LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard School

Each pot is the largest of the smallest sizes its fruit's sources give, drawn as a round pot as wide as it is deep. No source gives a gap between pots: the 2 feet between them is room to reach each one.

Variety picks by zone

Zone	1	2	3	4	5
4	Yellow Transparent	Honeycrisp	Winters under cover *	Winters under cover *	Winters under cover *
5	Yellow Transparent	Honeycrisp	Violette de Bordeaux §	Winters under cover *	Winters under cover *
6	Yellow Transparent	Empire	Violette de Bordeaux	Winters under cover *	Winters under cover *
7	Yellow Transparent	Acey Mac	Violette de Bordeaux	Winters under cover *	Winters under cover *
8	Yellow Transparent	Empire	Violette de Bordeaux	Winters under cover *	Winters under cover *
9	—	—	Black Mission	Owari Satsuma §	Satsuma Mandarin §

Each pick is a good fit for the zone by the site's fit check, and every tree that needs a partner has one in the plan. A dash means no variety in the site's data suits that spot in that zone. The plan page gives the reason for each pick and two alternates.

* Where marked, the pot winters under cover: a fig goes into an unheated garage or basement after a hard frost (Penn State) and citrus comes into a garage, porch or other spot that stays above freezing in freezes (LSU). The site's fit check is for trees outdoors, so no variety is picked for these pots.

§ Tree 3 in zone 5: One nursery rates Violette de Bordeaux to zone 5, its coldest; in a pot it still winters under cover: Penn State moves potted figs into an unheated garage or basement after a hard frost.

§ Tree 4 in zone 9: Zone 9 gets freezes, so potted Owari Satsuma comes under cover in a freeze: LSU moves potted citrus into a garage, porch or other spot that stays above freezing.

§ Tree 5 in zone 9: Zone 9 gets freezes, so potted Satsuma Mandarin comes under cover in a freeze: LSU moves potted citrus into a garage, porch or other spot that stays above freezing.

Notes